

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of registration?

According to the statute (KRS 322A.090), it is unlawful for any person other than a registered geologist or a subordinate under the direction of a registered geologist to prepare any geologic reports or documents that are required by statute or administrative regulation. No person other than a registered geologist shall engage in the public practice of geology, or offer to publicly practice geology unless the person has been duly registered. "Public practice of geology" means the performance of service to the public in connection with the geological description, location, or evaluation of earth materials, liquids and gases and the natural processes acting on them.

Is anyone exempt from the requirement for registration as a Professional Geologist?

According to KRS 322A.080, the following persons are exempt from the requirements of registration:

- Officers and employees of the United States, state, or local governments while engaged in providing geological services for their employees;
- Persons engaged solely in geologic research or the instruction of geology;
- Professional engineers registered in this Commonwealth under KRS Chapter 322 who apply geology to the practice of engineering; or
- Persons not engaged in the public practice of geology.

How can I obtain an application packet for registration as a Professional Geologist in the Commonwealth of Kentucky?

Contact the office below or use the online source for application materials. Please be sure to include your full name, address, and phone number with your request.

Kentucky Division of Occupations & Professions
P.O. Box 1360
Frankfort KY 40602
Voice 502-564-3296 ext. 240
Fax 502-564-4818
Email dana.hockensmith@ky.gov

What are the requirements to become registered?

For registration as a Professional Geologist in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, all of the current requirements under the statute (KRS 322A.040) must be met, specifically:

- (a) Successful completion of a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of course work in geology, culminating in a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering from an accredited college or university. At the discretion of the Board of Registration, courses dealing with applied geological science that are given under the auspices of an academic department other than geology may be considered toward fulfillment of this requirement.
- (b) Five years of experience in professional geologic work. Professional geologic work may include the instruction of geology at the college or university level, the geological research of persons at the college or university level, geological work performed while in the employment of the United States, state or local governments. In counting years of experience, the Board may give one year of credit each for a master's degree or doctoral degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry or geological/geotechnical engineering; and
- (c) A passing score on an examination required by the Board that has been designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.

To apply for registration, the applicant must submit a completed application form, transcripts, fifty (50) dollars as an application fee, and three hundred (300) dollars as an examination fee (i.e., one hundred and fifty (150) dollars for each portion of the exam). If the required documents and fees are received, and the application is approved by the Board, the applicant will be eligible to take the examination.

If I am registered in another state, can I become automatically registered in Kentucky?

Kentucky has no reciprocity with other states. That is, if a geologist is registered in another state they cannot become automatically registered in Kentucky. However, Kentucky does grant registration based on comity. That is, if a geologist is registered in another state which has registration requirements that equal or exceed those of Kentucky that geologist can become registered in Kentucky by submitting an application, a copy of their registration or license, and application payment without taking the examinations.

How can I find out more about the examination?

The examination is a standardized test developed by the [National Association of State Boards of Geology](#) (ASBOG). Currently, it consists of two multiple choice sections each four hours in length: Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology.

If you decide to apply, you will receive a Candidate Handbook describing the examination as part of the application package.

How do I pay my examination fee?

Examination fees can be paid by check or money order made out to the Kentucky State Treasurer.

When are examinations administered?

Examinations are usually scheduled for October and March. Usually the examinations are administered at the Occupations & Professions building in Frankfort. The deadline for applying to take the examinations is about 35 days before the exam date. Exam dates and deadlines are posted on the Board's Web site.

What is a Geologist-in-Training?

After passing the Fundamentals of Geology examination persons can be certified as Geologist-in-Training while they gain the 5 years of professional experience necessary to take the Practice of Geology examination to become registered as a Professional Geologist. G-I-Ts are qualified to prepare geologic reports, documents, or conduct any geological work only while in the employment of, under the supervision of, a registered geologist.

How can I apply to become a Geologist-in-Training?

Contact the office below or use the online source for application materials. Applicants must submit the completed application, along with a college or university transcript, or other appropriate documentation if the applicant is a student who has not yet graduated. The application fee is fifty (50) dollars, plus one hundred and fifty (150) for the Fundamentals of Geology examination.

Please be sure to include your full name, address, and phone number with your application packet request.

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Where do I get a registration seal?

Registrants are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own seals. The graphic for the seal can be obtained by contacting the Board Administrator, who will then fax a copy to you. This graphic can be taken to your local office supply store for use in creating a seal. Seals must have your name and registration number.

How can I renew my registration?

The renewal period for each year's registration ends on September 30 of the previous year. The fee for renewal each year is fifty (50) dollars. A grace period extends from October 1 to December 29 each year. The late renewal fee, including penalty, is seventy-five (75) dollars during this period. Registration that is not renewed before December 29 shall be suspended.

After the grace period and before the end of the two (2) years, a professional geologist suspended for failure to renew may be reinstated upon:

- Payment of the reinstatement fee, currently one hundred (100) dollars;
- Completion of the reinstatement form; and
- Documentation of employment from the time of suspension to the present.

How can I update my address or other information in the Roster?

A change of address form can be obtained on line, or by contacting the Board via phone, mail, or email. The completed form should be mailed or faxed to the Board Administrator.

How can I verify that a geologist is registered with the Board?

If you know the last name of the geologist, their Social Security number, or their registration number, you can [verify their registration on line](#).

How can I obtain the Roster of Professional Geologists registered in Kentucky?

You may obtain a hard copy (via US mail) or electronic copy (via email) of the Roster by writing to the Board Administrator. There is a fee charged for reproduction and mailing of the Roster. The fee will vary according to the format requested.

How can I file a complaint concerning a registered Professional Geologist?

If you have a complaint concerning the public practice of geology by a registered Professional Geologist, or if you are aware of someone engaged in the public practice of geology who is not registered, you may file a complaint with the Board. Disputes over fees will not be investigated by the Board unless there are

indications of negligence, incompetence, or fraud. To ensure that the Board can conduct a thorough review of your complaint, please use the [Complaint Form](#), which can be obtained online or by calling the Board Administrator.

Upon receipt of your complaint, the Complaint Review Committee of the Board will conduct an initial review. If the complaint is deemed to have merit, the Board will pursue a formal investigation and will inform you of the general progress of the investigation and any hearings or related disciplinary actions.